

REMARKS

Independent claims 1 and 14 have been amended to define a shut-off valve which closes “responsive to coming into contact with said bladder when the volume of the working fluid within said accumulator falls to a predetermined low value.” Support for such language is found in paragraphs [0008], [0022] and [0030].

The rejection of claims 1-5 and 9 for anticipation by Weber is respectfully traversed. In the embodiments of Weber the valve member opens and closes a fixture in communication either with the interior of a bellows 9 (the embodiment of Fig. 1) or with the space surrounding the bellows (the embodiment of Fig. 2). In both embodiments the valve member is fixed to an end plate 11 and, therefore, the valve is opened and closed with expansion and contraction of the bellows 9. At no point does the valve come into contact with the bellows, a feature which requires that, at some point, the valve not be in contact with the bellows. In Weber the valve member is attached to and moves with the bellows and is thereby constantly in contact therewith.

The rejection of claim 14 for anticipation by Miller is believed to be moot in view of the fact that claim 14 is amended here to include the limitation of cancelled claim 15.

The rejection of claim 11 for obviousness over Weber in view of Legrand is traversed for the foregoing reasons and further for the reason that there would have been no motivation to incorporate the spring of Legrand into the structure of Weber. The examiner in his remarks suggests that such a modification of Weber would “ensure that the valve is provided with the

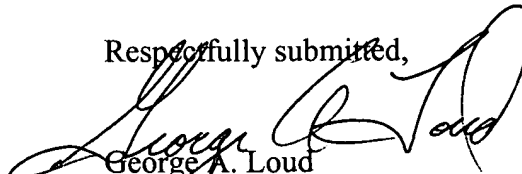
right amount of force to properly control the shut-off of fluid at a specific pressure.” As noted above, the valve of Weber will move with expansion and contraction of the bellows because it is fixed to the plate 11. Accordingly, addition of a spring to Weber would serve absolutely no useful purpose.

The rejection of claims 6-8 and 13 for obviousness over Weber in view of Pietrykowski is respectfully traversed for the same reasons the rejection for anticipation by Weber has been traversed above. As amended, Weber does not disclose “all of the recited structure with the exception of...”

Likewise, the rejections of claims 10 and 14-18 over Weber in view of Miller and the rejection of claim 12 for obviousness over Weber in view of Thompson are respectfully traversed for the same reasons. Weber does not disclose all of the recited structure with the exception of structure disclosed in the secondary references.

In conclusion, it is respectfully requested that the examiner reconsider the rejections of record with a view toward allowance of the claims as amended.

Respectfully submitted,


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